

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: BIENVENUE NAMED EDUCATION MINISTER, CLOUTIER RUMORED
FOR QUEBEC DELEGATION IN PARIS.

1. IN SURPRISE DECISION, PREMIER BOURASSA NAMED MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION JEAN BIENVENUE TO THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO REPLACING RAYMOND GARNEAU WHO RETAINS FINANCE MINISTRY. RELIEF FOR GARNEAU WHO WAS STRETCHED TOO THIN WITH 2 MAJOR PORTFOLIOS WAS EXPECTED BUT BIENVENUE HAD NOT BEEN ONE OF RUMORED CANDIDATES. MINISTER OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, LISE BACON, WILL ASSUME THE IMMIGRATION PORTFOLIO AND RETAIN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL.

2. LE SOLEIL OF JANUARY 16 BANNER HEADLINES THE SELECTION OF MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FRANCOIS CLOUTIER AS BOURASSA'S CHOICE TO REPLACE JEAN CHAPDELAINE AS THE HEAD OF QUEBEC'S DELEGATION IN PARIS. NEWS OF THE MOVE, DESCRIBED AS COMING FROM VERY GOOD SOURCES, IS EXPECTED TO BE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. NO WORD GIVEN ON WHO WOULD REPLACE CLOUTIER. WHILE CLOUTIER WAS RUMORED A YEAR AGO TO COVET EITHER THE CANADIAN AMBASSADORSHIP IN PARIS OR THE QUEBEC DELEGATE GENERAL POSITION IN PARIS, CURRENT MOVE, IF TRUE, COMES AS SURPRISE BECAUSE RUMORS STOPPED WHEN CLOUTIER TOOK-OVER PRESENT POST IN LAST JULY'S CABINET SHUFFLE.

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CLOUTIER, A WELL-KNOWN FRANCOPHILE, WAS ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT

OF THE FRANCOPHONE AGENCE DE COOPERATION CULTURELLE ET
TECHNIQUE AT THE MAURITIUS CONFERENCE LAST NOVEMBER.

3. COMMENT: SEVERAL HYPOTHESES ARE POSSIBLE CONCERNING
BIENVENUE'S SURPRISE NOMINATION. SINCE BIENVENUE IS AMONG
THE MORE CONSERVATIVE IN HIS PARTY, SOME BELIEVE BOURASSA
MAY HAVE WANTED TO UTILIZE HIS QUOTES LAW AND ORDER QUOTES
HARD-LINE IMAGE IN THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TEA-
CHERS. OTHERS FEEL THAT BOURASSA DISLIKES BIENVENUE AND
IS GIVING HIM ENOUGH ROPE TO HANG HIMSELF IN THE DIFFICULT
EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT. STILL OTHER OBSERVERS SURMISE THAT
IT IS A TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT PENDING A MAJOR CABINET SHUFFLE
WHICH MAY BE COMING NEXT SUMMER AFTER LEGISLATION REORGANIZING
AND MERGING SOME MINISTRIES HAS BEEN PASSED. FINALLY, AS
BIENVENUE IS A PROUDLY, BILINGUAL FEDERALIST, IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT BOURASSA IS MAKING A GESTURE TO APPEASE ANGLOPHONE
DISCONTENT OVER THE EFFECTS OF BILL 22 IN EDUCATION.

4. BIENVENUE IS A CANADIAN NAVY VETERAN WHO IS FRIENDLY TO
AND WELL-KNOWN BY THE CONSULAR CORPS. UPDATED BIO ON HIM
WILL BE POUCHED. GIVEN INITIAL UNFAVORABLE REACTION BY
YVON CHARBONNEAU OF THE TEACHERS UNION, BIENVENUE CAN EXPECT
TO HAVE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TIME IN A MINISTRY WHICH
WOULD BE EASY FOR NO ONE.

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